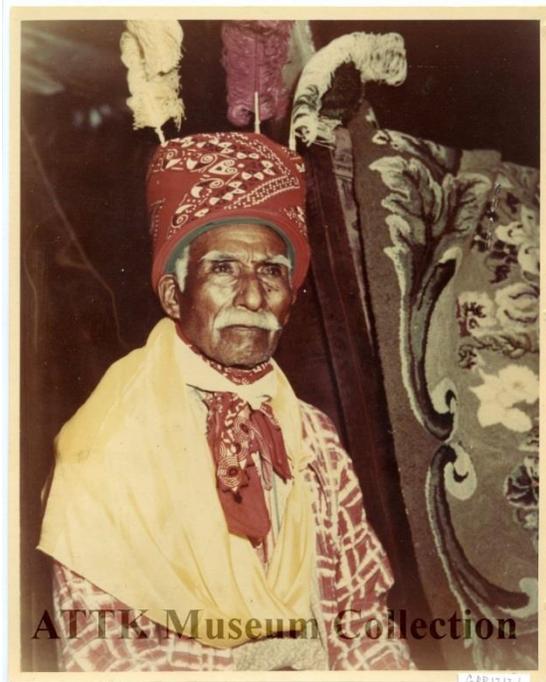


Artifact of the Month

Tribal Historic Preservation Office

December 2018

Found at Billy Bowlegs III's camp on the Brighton reservation, this hand made blue glass bead represents just a small clue into Seminole camp life. We can tell this bead is hand made due to the lack of uniformity. The shape itself is slightly irregular, with small air bubbles present in the glass. The edges are rough and not ground down. Most likely, it would have been a trade bead that was part of a piece of jewelry or decoration. What is important about this artifact specifically is the site in which it was found. Billy Bowlegs III was a very influential and recognizable tribal member in both historic photographs and stories. He was well known for his advocacy of Seminole rights and reservation lands, and was a treasured tribal elder.



This year, the Tribal Archaeology Section of the THPO completed a historic camp reconstruction project in order to recreate the camp as he occupied it, based on oral histories provided by his family. Occupied by Bowlegs during the mid-twentieth century, the reconstruction will be utilized by the community as a representation of traditional camp life.

